

## House Resolution 166

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Burnough of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Veteran Services and Benefits; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to protecting the health and safety of those  
4 who have served in the United States military; and

5 WHEREAS, certain veterans fall upon hard times upon the end of their service which may  
6 see them before the criminal justice system or being unable to obtain or maintain housing;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives is committed to insuring that veterans of this State  
9 receive the fullest benefits available to them.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

11 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee  
12 on Veteran Services and Benefits.

13 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the  
14 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson  
16 of the committee.

17 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall survey relevant stakeholders in all areas  
18 surrounding the services and benefits available and provided to veterans in this state. The  
19 committee shall, at a minimum, consider as part of the study:

20 (A) A procedure to electronically receive criminal case information maintained in the  
21 case management systems used by the various courts of this State to cross-reference the  
22 names obtained with the names of individuals in the:

23 (i) United States Department of Defense data base of individuals whose military  
24 service qualifies the individuals for veterans benefits; and

25 (ii) Any national guard registries.

(B) Protocols for sharing information with county prosecutors and a veterans' court to help address the needs of veterans in the court system;

(C) Ways to coordinate substance abuse rehabilitation professionals, local social programs, and intensive judicial monitoring;

(D) Linking veterans to programs and services;

(E) Whether Georgia should implement a program to provide a property tax deduction for rental property owners as a way to encourage rental property owners to partner with nonprofit organizations to reduce veteran homelessness, including:

(i) The criteria to be met for a property owner to qualify for a tax deduction under the program;

(ii) The criteria to be met for a nonprofit organization to participate in the program, and the need for a process for the state to approve nonprofit organizations for participation in the program; and

(iii) Determining the source of funding for the program.

(4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

(5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

(6) **Report.**

(A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

(B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

(C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee. A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

- 62 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the  
63 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu  
64 thereof.
- 65 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.